

Message Text

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10

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 XMB-04 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2736

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XF, IS, GW

SUBJECT: FRG STATEMENT ON ARAB BOYCOTT

REF: (A) BONN 7354; (B) BONN 17512

1. OCTOBER L4 ECONMIN STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER

ANSWERED PARLIAMENTARY QUERY RE HOW MANY GERMAN FIRMS

ARE AFFECTED BY OR COMPLY WITH ARAB BOYCOTT DEMANDS, WHAT IMPACT ARAB

BOYCOTT DEMANDS HAVE ON TRADE WITH ISRAEL AND ARAB

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STATES, AND WHETHER FRG PLANS TO FOLLOW AMERICAN

CONGRESS IN FORBIDDING COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH BOYCOTT DEMANDS, PERHAPS IN EC OR OECD FRAMEWORK.

2. TEXT OF ANSWER AS FOLLOWS (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

QUOTE: THE FRG HAS NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF FIRMS WHICH ENCOUNTER ARAB BOYCOTT DEMANDS. ON A PURELY UNOFFICIAL BASIS, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE SO-CALED BLACK LIST OF THE BOYCOTT OFFICE CONTAINS SOME 200 GERMAN COMPANIES. THERE IS EVEN LESS INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL HAVE BEEN REDUCED BECAUSE OF BOYCOTT THREATS, OR WHETHER ORDERS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, AS A RESULT OF COMPLIANCE OR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOYCOTT, HAVE BEEN GAINED OR LOST.

THE FRG HAS NEVER ALLOWED ANY DOUBT AS TO ITS CONDEMNATION OF THE BOYCOTT AS A POLITICAL WEAPON. THE FRG HAS TAKEN THIS CLEAR POSITION, WHICH IT HAS REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR TO ARAB PARTNERS, BECAUSE THE THREAT AND IMPOSITION OF BOYCOTTS VIOLATES THE GOAL THAT PEOPLES MUST LIVE TOGETHER ON A PEACEFUL BASIS. IN ADDITION, BOYCOTT THREATS ADVERSELY EFFECT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. BOYCOTT DEMANDS, AND COMPLIANCE WITH THEM, AFFORD NO PERMANENT ADVANTAGE IN THE VIEW OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, THE FRG HAS REPEATEDLY WORKED FOR RELIEF IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHERE BUSINESS RELATIONS OF GERMAN CORPORATIONS WITH ISRAEL ARE THREATENED BY ARAB BOYCOTT MEASURES.

THE FRG DOES NOT CONSIDER IT PROPER TO YIELD TO BOYCOTT THREATS; AT THE SAME TIME, IT REGARDS THE PROHIBITION OF COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH DEMANDS AS LEGALLY PROBLEMATIC AND ILL-SUITED. SUCH A PROHIBITION WOULD ENCUMBER THE ALREADY PERCEIVED MORE FLEXIBLE APPLICATION OF THE BOYCOTT BY SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING SOME RELIEF BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. THE FRG REMAINS PREPARED AT ANY TIME TO TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION. END QUOTE.

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2. ROHWEDDER'S STATEMENT REITERATES STANDARD FRG POSITION ON ARAB BOYCOTT.
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